Message Text

INFO USINT BAGHDAD AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

CONFIDENTIAL ALGIERS 2071

GENEVA FOR MEPC SAUNDERS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, PFOR, MARR, XF, IS, EG, AG

SUBJECT: STILL NO DEFINITIVE ALGERIAN REACTION TO EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI

DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT

REF: (A) ALGIERS 1997 (B) ALGIERS 2022

(C) FBIS LONDON 202154Z NOTAL (D) ALGIERS 2057 (NOTAL)

1. GOA HAS REFRAINED FROM FURTHER COMMENT ON EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI ACCORD FOLLOWING INDIRECT CRITICISM OF AGREEMENT BY OFFICIAL NEWS AGENCY SEPTEMBER 10 (ALGIERS 1997). CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 ALGIER 02071 231936Z

MEDIA HAVE CONFINED THEMSELVES TO PUBLISHING CRITICISMS

OF ACCORD MADE BY OTHER GOVERNMENTS. STATEMENT OF SOLIDARITY WITH SYRIANS BY REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL MEMBER COLONEL YAHYAOUI, WHO RECENTLY RETURNED FROM TRIP TO DAMASCUS, BEIRUT AND TRIPOLI, ALSO GIVEN PROMINENT TREATMENT (FBIS LONDON 202154Z NOTAL.

- 2. NOT CLEAR IF AND WHEN ALGERIANS WILL DROP OTHER SHOE. KNOWLEDGEABLE DIPLOMAT HERE SPECULATES THAT YAHYAOUI, WHO DELIVERED MESSAGES FROM PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE TO PRESIDENT ASAD, ARAFAT AND COLONEL QADHAFI, WAS CHARGED WITH TAKING IN DEPTH SAMPLING OF ARAB OPINION ON EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI AGREEMENT AS WELL AS WITH URGING RESTRAINT ON VARIOUS PALESTINIAN FACTIONS HE CONTACTED WHILE IN BEIRUT. WITH YAHYAOUI'S SOUNDINGS IN HAND, SOURCE BELIEVES ALGERIANS MAY ABANDON RESTRAINT, WHICH HAS BEEN MAINTAINED OUT OF RESPECT FOR EGYPTIANS, AND JOIN OTHERS IN ATTACKING AGREEMENT.
- 3. COMMENT: BASED ON COMMENTS OF VARIOUS ALGERIAN OFFICIALS, OUR OWN FEELING IS THAT GOA WILL, FOR MOMENT AT LEAST, CONTINUE TO REFRAIN FROM DIRECT CRITICISM OF ACCORD. OUR GUESS IS THAT ALGERIANS MAY WISH NOT TO GET TOO FAR OUT FRONT ON THIS ISSUE UNTIL SITUATION CLARIFIES FURTHER. ALSO, CAUTIOUS TREATMENT OF EGYPTIAN EMBASSY SEIZURE, AND FON OFF COMMENT TO US ON THIS EVENT (ALGIERS 2057 NOTAL), SUGGEST THAT GOA DOES NOT WISH TO ANTAGONIZE CAIRO AT THIS TIME. HOWEVER, IF MIDEAST TEMPERATURES RISE AT COMING UNGA, ALGERIAN ATTITUDE MAY VERY WELL HARDEN.PARKER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: AGREEMENTS, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 23 SEP 1975 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975AL GIER02071

Document Number: 1975ALGIER02071 Document Source: CORE Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: GS Errors: N/A

Film Number: D750329-0933

From: ALGIERS

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750924/aaaaaupg.tel Line Count: 90

Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM Office: ACTION NEA Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2

Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 ALGIERS 1997, 75 ALGIERS 2022
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX

Review Comment: n/a Review Content Flags: Review Date: 28 MAY 2003

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <10 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>

Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JÚL 2006

Review Media Identifier: Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

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To: STATE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006